

**AFFIDAVIT OF LARRY COWAN**

NOW COMES LARRY COWAN, and before a witness or duly authorized notary public, hereby swears and attests to the following as true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief:

- 1) My name is Larry Darnell Cowan and I am over 21 years of age.
- 2) In February of 2012, I suffered multiple gunshot wounds, including one gunshot wound on my anus and another through my neck.
- 3) In order to allow the injuries to my rectum and anus to heal, I underwent a colostomy. My feces was temporarily diverted into a colostomy bag.
- 4) The bullet that passed through my neck caused my left arm to be paralyzed for about two and a half years. However, my motor control in that arm gradually returned.
- 5) I entered the custody of the Michigan Department of Corrections in late 2012 and have remained in MDOC custody since that time.
- 6) After the traumatic injuries to my rectum and anus had healed, I made repeated requests to various prison doctors and nursing staff about undergoing colostomy reversal surgery.
- 7) Medical staff always informed me that I would not receive a reversal surgery because it was too expensive.

- 8) Doctors, nurses, correctional officers, and even inmates discouraged me, by repeatedly offering up their opinions that I would not receive this surgery.
- 9) Over the next several years, I gradually developed polyps and bloody discharge from my stoma.
- 10) One day in August of 2017, I began bleeding profusely from my stoma.
- 11) When my colostomy bag was filled about half way up with blood, I went to the healthcare area without permission.
- 12) I was told that I was bleeding because I was dehydrated, and to go back to my unit.
- 13) I was still losing blood and I didn't want to go lay down and bleed out on my bunk, so I walked up to the control center without permission.
- 14) I told a male lieutenant, last name Quinn, that I needed an ambulance because I was bleeding heavily into my colostomy bag. He yelled at me for coming to the control center without a pass and ordered another guard to take me to "the hole."
- 15) After I was in "the hole" for about twenty minutes, a correction officer, Sgt. Montgomery, came to my cell and asked why I was in disciplinary segregation and what was going on.
- 16) I showed Sgt. Montgomery my colostomy bag full of blood and explained the situation. She immediately escorted me to healthcare.

- 17) The healthcare staff said they had already seen me and that I needed to go back to my unit.
- 18) I was taken back to my unit, where I called my father, "Big Larry," because I thought I was going to bleed out and die. According to my father, he called the prison, the Michigan State Police, and MDOC headquarters in Lansing.
- 19) Following my father's phone calls, healthcare began checking my vitals every half hour and I was transported to a local hospital, where the doctors were astounded by the condition of my stoma.
- 20) A few weeks later, I was sent for a colonoscopy at Allegiance Hospital (St. John) in Jackson, MI. The doctor who saw me there told me that he would attempt colostomy reversal surgery before the year was out.
- 21) On or about December 7, 2017, I finally received a colostomy reversal surgery. I seriously doubt that I would have ever received the reversal surgery if I had not developed continuous heavy bleeding from my stoma.
- 22) I lived with a colostomy bag in Michigan prisons for over five years.
- 23) For the first two and a half years, while one of my arms was paralyzed, I had to clean and change my bag with one hand.
- 24) My stoma regularly prolapsed, and my large intestine would hang six-to-eight inches out of my body.
- 25) For years, I had polyps and bloody sores on and around my stoma.

26) Living with a stoma in MDOC custody for over five years was a disgusting, traumatic, humiliating, and painful experience, which could have been avoided if I had received the reversal surgery when my rectum and anus had fully healed, instead of over five years later and only after I had developed serious complications at the stoma site.

Further Affiant sayeth not.

Dated: 1-28-21

  
Larry Darnell Cowan

NOTARY PUBLIC: T. Mitchell Keyes

**T. Mitchell – Keyes**  
Notary Public, Muskegon County, MI  
My Commission Expires 05/31/2026  
Acting in the County of Muskegon

1/28/2021